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NEWS RELEASE

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PUC APPROVES BALANCED, COST-EFFECTIVE ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLAN FOR XCEL ENERGY

DENVER – The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) today approved a resource plan for Xcel Energy that balances environmental, economic and reliability goals in supplying its customers' electric needs through 2018 and beyond.

The decision sets forth directives and designates a combination of resources that Xcel Energy can acquire at a reasonable cost and rate impact. It adds renewable energy resources, advances Colorado toward the governor's carbon reduction goals, ensures an adequate supply of resources in the future, and aims at keeping consumers' energy costs as low as possible.

"This is an historic moment," PUC Chairman Joshua Epel said. "Colorado has been moving toward a lower-carbon future, and with the lower wind and solar costs, we have an opportunity to move that future forward."

The PUC approved a resource portfolio for Xcel Energy that includes:

- The previously-authorized acquisition of 450 megawatts (MW) of wind resources.
- Continued operation of the Cherokee 4 unit on natural gas.
- Retirement of Arapahoe 4 unit.
- Entering into purchase power agreements with two natural-gas fired facilities owned and operated by independent power producers for a total of 317 MW of gas-fired capacity.
- The acquisition of 170 MW of photovoltaic (PV) solar capacity.

(more)

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The decision allows the company to acquire capacity beyond the level required within the resource acquisition period of the plan (through 2018) due to the low cost of bids received and the need for additional capacity beginning in 2019.

The PUC said today's decision will allow Colorado to build on the impressive amounts of clean energy and energy efficient technologies already in place, and continue the remarkable success in the transition to more renewable energy.

Once the written decision is issued, Xcel Energy will negotiate contracts to acquire the selected resources.

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

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